

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00549 161131Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 IGA-02 OMB-01

PRS-01 DRC-01 AF-10 /106 W

----- 114798

R 161041Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 549

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PK, FR

SUBJ: RUMORED FRENCH ARMS DEAL WITH PAKISTAN

REF: KABUL 253

1. HARD INFORMATION ON RUMORED ARMS DEAL UNDER WHICH FRENCH WOULD UNDERTAKE BUILD MIRAGES IN PAKISTAN IS DIFFICULT TO COME BY, SINCE NEITHER PAKS NOR LOCAL FRENCH REPS ARE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT IT. THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW STRAWS IN THE WIND BUT SO FAR THEY HAVE NOT ADDED UP TO MUCH.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN JANUARY 12 PRESS BRIEFING CHARACTERIZED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS OF ARMSDEAL AS "SPECULATIVE AND TENDENTIOUS". HE COMPLAINED THAT POWER IMBALANCE IN SUBCONTINENT HAD FURTHER DETERIORATED AS RESULT RECORD INDIAN MILITARY BUDGET, SOVIET DELIVERIES OF SOPHISTICATED  
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WEAPONS TO INDIA, AND ARMS DEALS RECENTLY CONCLUDED BY

INDIANS WITH BOTH US AND FRANCE. WHILE PAKS LACKED DOMESTIC CAPACITY TO PRODUCE SOPHISTICATED ARMS AND HAD TO RELY ON IMPORTS FOR THEIR ESSENTIAL DEFENSE NEEDS, HE ASSERTED, EVERY PAK EFFORT TO PROCURE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OVERSEAS RESULTED IN GREAT HUE AND CRY FROM INDIA OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE POTENTIAL FOREIGN SUPPLIERS AND KEEP PAKISTAN MILITARILY WEAK. DURABLE PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT COULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED IF INDIA CONTINUED ARM ITSELF WHILE PREVENTING PAKISTAN FROM FILLING ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS.

4. WITH REGARD SPECIFIC REPORTS THAT PAKISTAN WOULD PRODUCE FRENCH MIRAGE AIRCRAFT TO SUPPLY CERTAIN ARAB STATES, SPOKESMAN SAID PAKISTAN UNDERSTOOD DESIRE OF THESE ARAB STATES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SECURITY AND WAS WILLING TO HELP MEET THEIR ARMS REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ITS LIMITED PRODUCTION CAPABILITY.

5. COMMENT: NOTABLE THAT WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CASTIGATED FOREIGN (READ INDIAN) PRESS REPORTS OF PAK-FRENCH ARMS DEAL, HE AVOIDED SPECIFIC DENIAL THAT SUCH DEAL WAS IN OFFING.  
BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** KABUL 253  
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**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED FRENCH ARMS DEAL WITH PAKISTAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, PK, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005